

Building momentum for Routine immunization Recovery in Africa



BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation





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The Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone
The African Union (AU) Commission for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (AUC
HHS)

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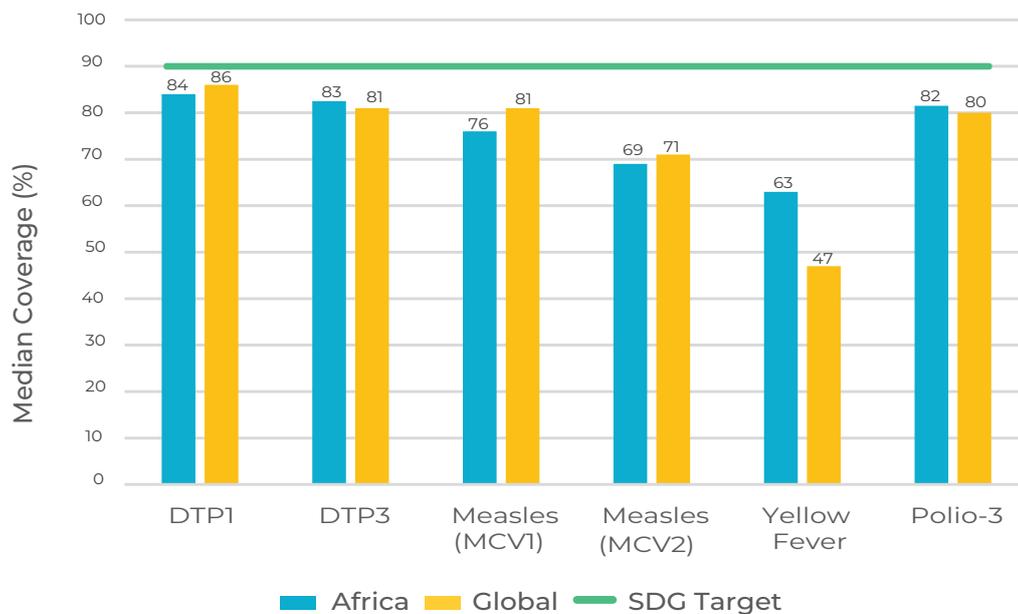


Vaccines Save Lives and Stabilize Health Systems

- Immunization is a global health and development success story, saving between 2-3 million lives every year.
- Immunization is a key component of primary health care and one of the best health investments money can buy.
- Vaccination is a major public health counter measure to contain vaccine preventable infectious disease epidemics. Consequently, vaccines are indispensable in global health security and are a vital tool in the battle against antimicrobial resistance.
- Despite tremendous progress, vaccination coverage has stalled in recent years and has declined since 2020. The disruptions to essential services caused by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past 2-3 years have exacerbated the situation, with 25 million children missing out on vaccination in 2021 globally; 6 million more than in 2019-the highest number since 2009.
- In this brief, key information on the performance of vaccination programmes in Africa is provided using a few priority vaccine preventable diseases, namely Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTP3), Poliomyelitis, Measles, and Yellow Fever.



Immunization Coverage for Priority Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs) (2021) in Africa

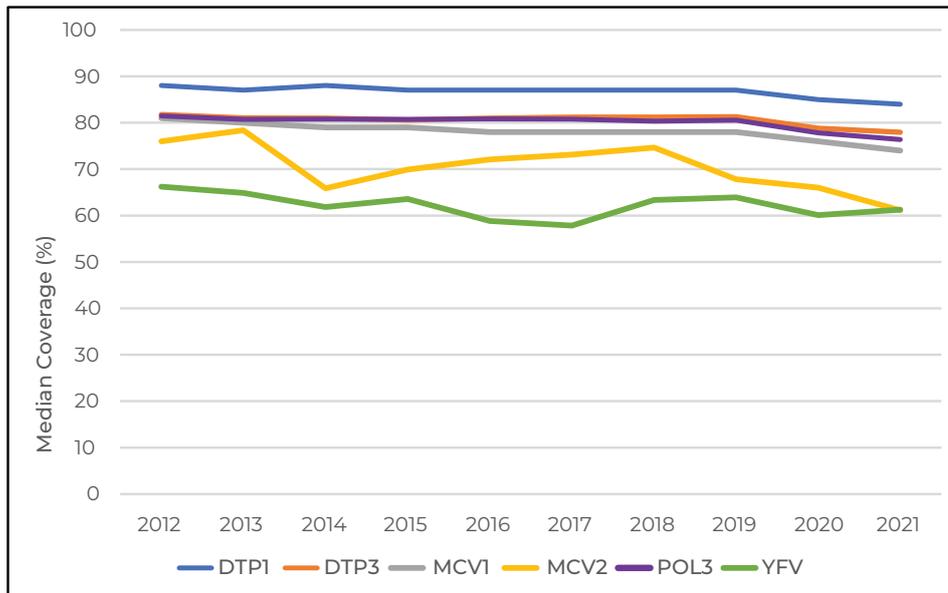


Source: WHO-UNICEF Estimate of National Immunization Coverage (WUENIC), 2021 revision

- Africa has not yet achieved the SDG-3.b.1 target for vaccination coverage for most VPDs.
- In Africa, the median vaccination coverage in 2021 for Yellow Fever is 63% (range 7-88%), Measles 2nd dose is 69% (range 1-99%) while Measles first dose is 76% (range 36-99%).
- The 2021 median vaccination coverage in Africa for DTP1 is 84% (range 51-99%), while for DTP3 is 83% (range 42-99%) and for Polio-3 it is 81.5% (range 23-99%).



Trends of Immunization Coverage for Priority VPDs in Africa, 2012 - 2021



Source: WHO-UNICEF Estimate of National Immunization Coverage (WUENIC), 2021 revision

- Over the last 10 years, vaccination coverage for the Vaccine Preventable Diseases has stagnated in Africa.
- Since 2020, there has been declining trend in coverages for DTP1, DPT3, Measles, Polio-3 and Yellow Fever in Africa.
- A notable decline is observed in 2020 and 2021 that is attributed to the effect of Covid-19 pandemic.



VPDs are the leading cause of infectious disease epidemics in Africa, January 2023

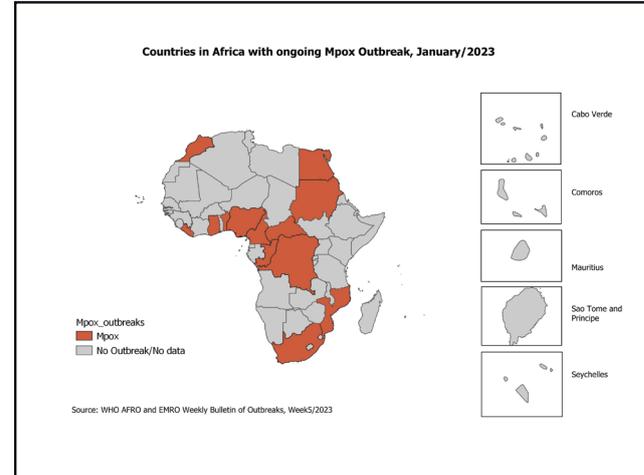
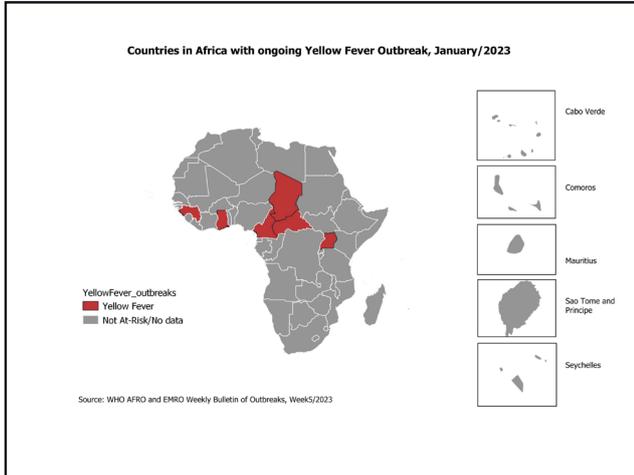
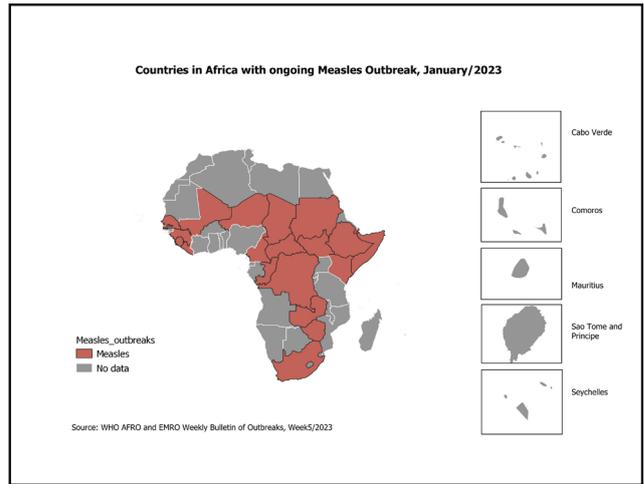
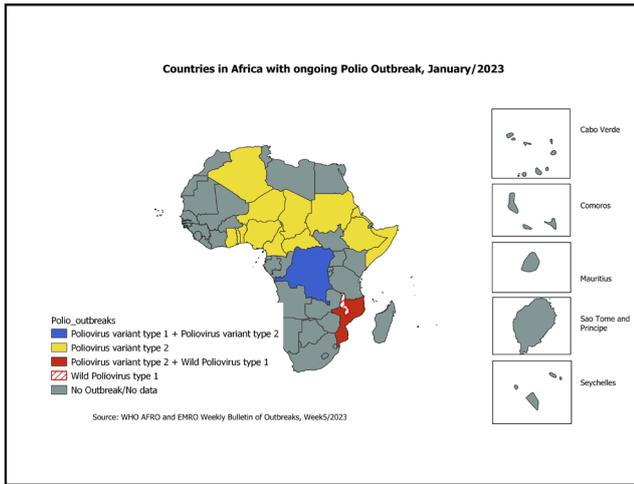
- VPDs are responsible for 93% of ongoing infectious disease outbreaks in Africa.
- Currently there are ongoing outbreaks of VPDs in thirty-one (31) countries in Africa with 17 countries having more than one VPD outbreaks.
- There are epidemics of Measles in 20 countries, Poliomyelitis in 18 countries, Mpox in 13 countries and Cholera in 11 countries.

Ongoing VPD Event	Number of affected countries	Ongoing VPD Event	Number of affected countries
Measles	20	Wild Poliovirus type 1	2
Poliovirus variant type 2	15	Hepatitis E	1
Mpox	13	Meningitis	1
Cholera	11	Poliovirus variant type 1	1
Yellow Fever	6	Suspected meningitis	1
Dengue	4	Typhoid fever	1
Malaria	2		

Source: WHO AFRO and EMRO Weekly Bulletin on Outbreaks, Week5/January 2023

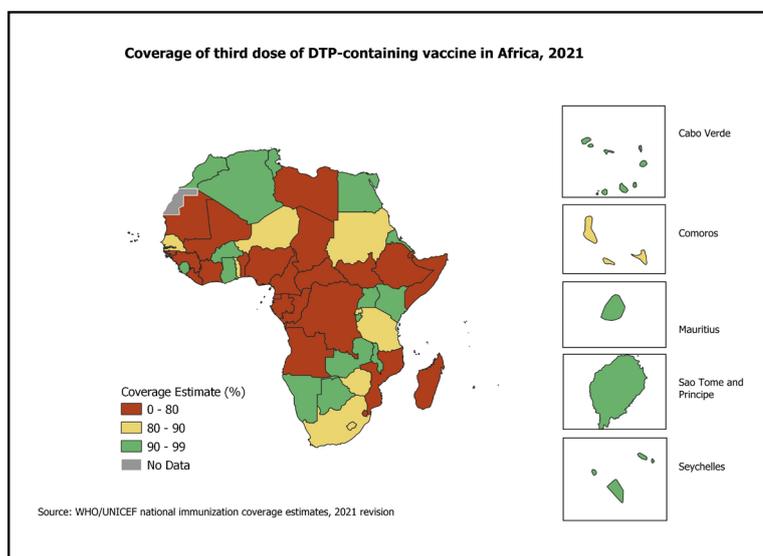
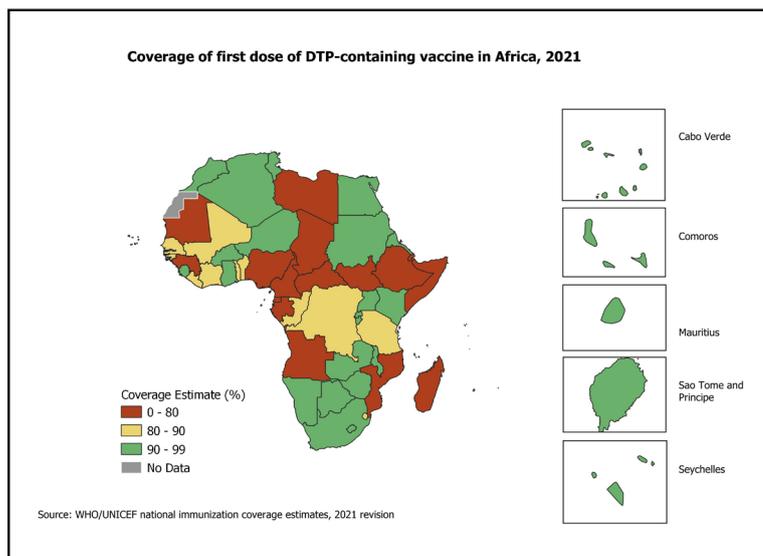


Ongoing VPDs epidemics in Africa, January 2023





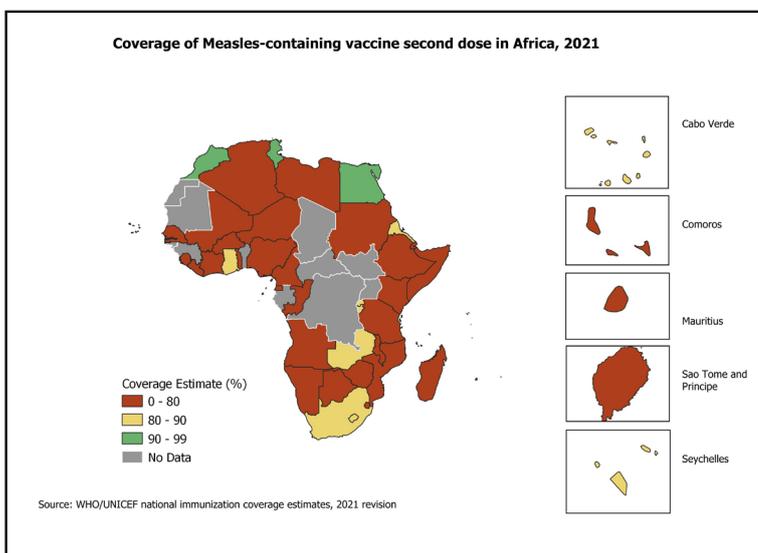
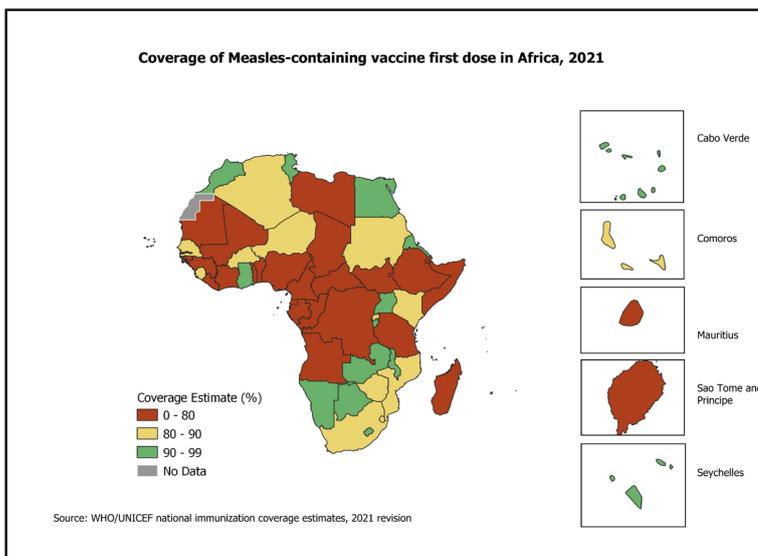
Disparities in DTP-1 and DTP-3 Coverage in Africa, 2021



- In 2021, 26 and 19 countries in Africa had achieved and some surpassed the vaccination coverage target of 90% for both first and third dose of DTP-containing vaccine, respectively.
- The median drop out rate at national level for the first and third dose DTP-containing vaccine is about 5% (range 0-24%) in Africa.
- Most countries with the lowest rates for both DTP1 and DTP3 vaccination coverage were in the WHO African region.
- Two (2) Fragile Complex and Vulnerable (FCV) countries (CAR, Federal Republic of Somalia) had the least coverage for both first and third dose DTP-containing vaccine.



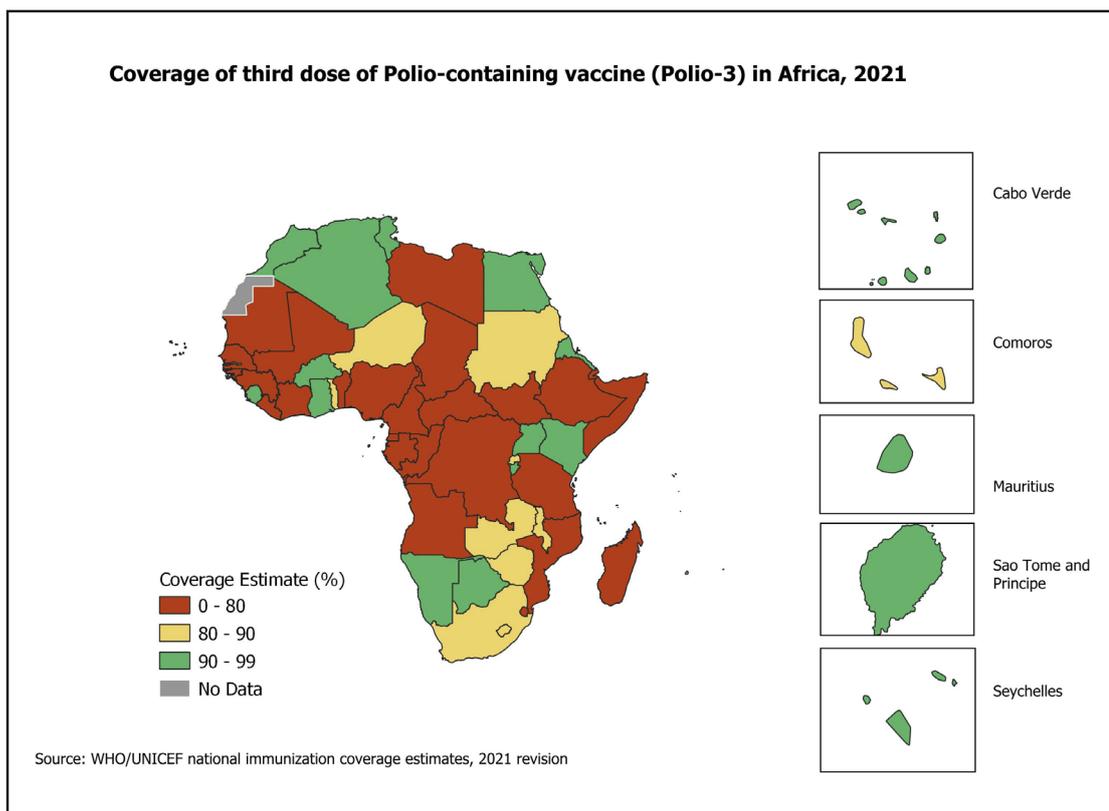
Disparities in the Coverage of Measles - Containing-Vaccine First (MCV1) and Second Dose (MCV2) in Africa, 2021



- Measles vaccination has prevented many outbreaks and deaths in Africa.
- Before the introduction of measles vaccine in 1963 and widespread vaccination, measles caused an estimated 2.6 million deaths each year.
- Only 3 countries in Africa have attained the vaccination target for the second dose of Measles-containing vaccine (Arab Republic of Egypt, Kingdom of Morocco and Republic of Tunisia).
- Six (6) and 13 countries in the continent have less than 50% coverage for both first and second dose of Measles-containing vaccine.
- The median drop out rate at national level between the first and second dose of Measles-containing vaccine is about 9% (range 0-67%) in Africa.



Disparities in the Coverage of Third Dose of Polio-containing Vaccine (Polio-3), in Africa, 2021



- Despite the continent being declared 'polio-free' in 2020, most countries in the WHO African region are yet to attain the vaccination target.
- 17 countries in Africa have attained the polio vaccination target of 90% (see Map).
- 5 countries in Africa have less than 50% coverage rate for polio.
- Since 2021, a resurgence in this disabling and life-threatening disease is being observed in Malawi and Mozambique.

